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COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovsk Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Mining and Refining near Magnitka

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This is UNEVALUATED

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. An ore mine and a new ore-refining plant were located southeast of Pervouralsk and Khrompik near the Magnitka settlement (see sketch on page 3). Magnitka consisted of old wooden buildings and some new brick houses inhabited by workers. The mine was linked with a chemical plant and the Khrompik railroad station by a Soviet broad-gauge railroad line, and with Pervouralsk by a road through Talitsa. The ore deposits were connected with the refining plant by a narrow-gauge railroad line. West-southwest of Pervouralsk, a mining camp similar to that of Magnitka supplied raw material to a fire-clay factory.
2. The source of ore was a barren rock, about 600 meters in diameter at the foot and 60 to 70 meters high, which has been exploited by open-cast working since about 1950. Mining operations at that location had been contemplated during World War II. One PW stated that the upper layer of grayish-green rock was rich enough in ore that it would have been processed in Germany. The second layer, four PWs stated, contained ore of blue-gray or blue-black color richly interspersed with crystals and green strata which were very heavy; according to one PW, this ore was twice as heavy as average rock. The ore had considerable magnetic force which, another PW stated, even caused the ore lumps to stick to tools. The metal content of the ore was estimated by one PW as 50 percent; another PW merely called it very high-grade ore. One PW said the ore was magnesium; another, iron; and a third, chrome.
3. The overburden was crushed to different sizes in an open-air crusher for use as road ballast or as material for the manufacture of concrete. Two new buildings and a haulage installation were built in 1951-1952. The 10 by 12 meter building was to house a new crusher and was connected by a concrete-covered conveying installation fitted with shaking chutes with the other new building, which was 12 by 25 meters and housed an ore-refining plant. The former building had

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six stories, one PW observed, and the second story was equipped with machines. No details on the equipment were available. The refining process was a continuous operation and started on the top story. Magnetic-sorting machines separated the ore at the end of the process.

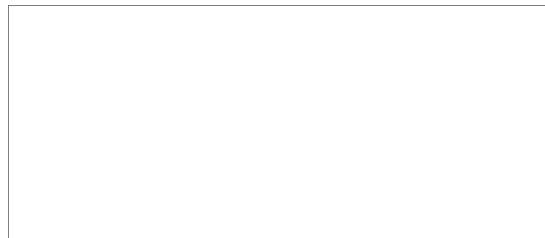
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4. PWs reported the production of scrap in connection with the removal of the overburden, but disagreed on the date when production began. Three PWs reported that the refining plant was in operation in 1953. Other PWs stated that roughly broken ore was supplied to the chemical factory near Khrompik in 1953.⁴ No production figures were available on the mining or refining plants.
5. One PW stated that 50 Soviets per shift were engaged in mining and 50 Soviets in refining operations. Work was divided into three eight-hour shifts. A total of 150 PWs were engaged in construction work.
6. The ore-crushing plants and the refining plant were surrounded by a board fence two meters high. Only one civilian gatekeeper was observed guarding the area, 100 meters square.

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1. Comment: The Khrompik Chemical Plant (point 1 on following sketch) has been engaged in the refining of chrome ores.

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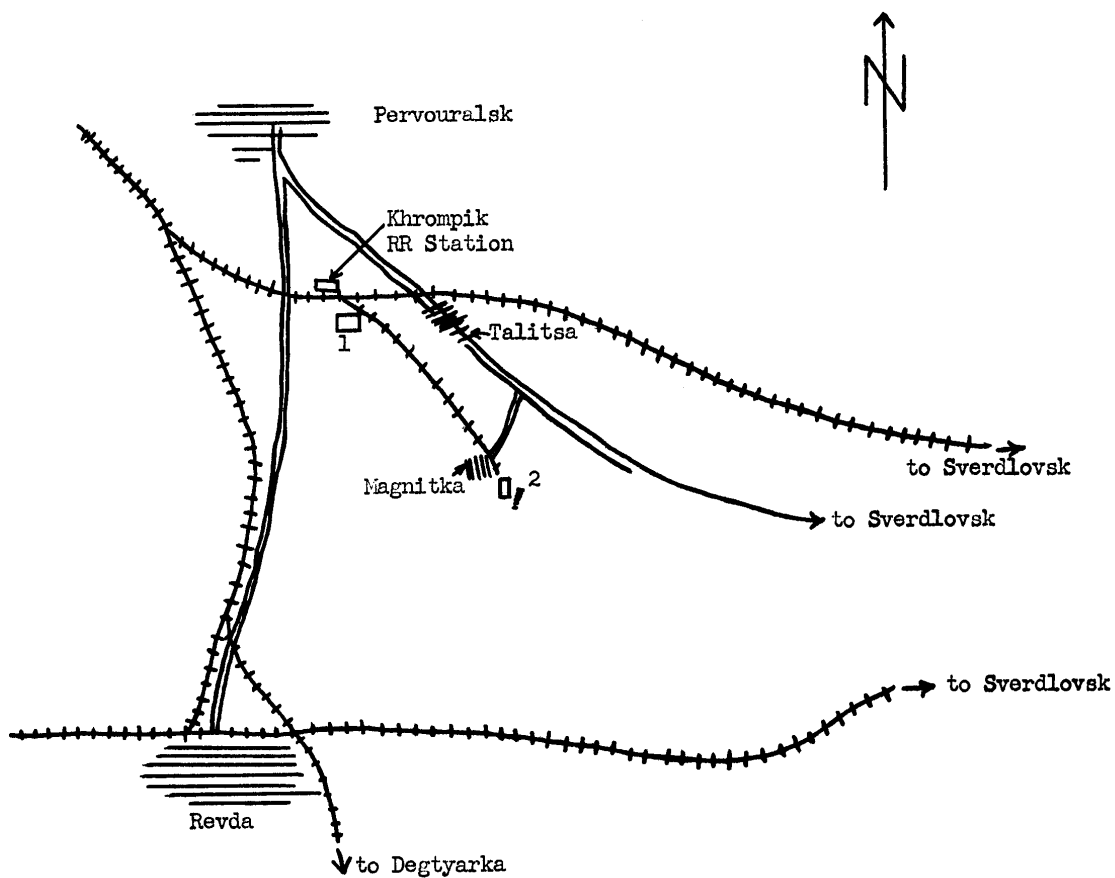


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Sketch of Magnitka Areanot to scaleLegend

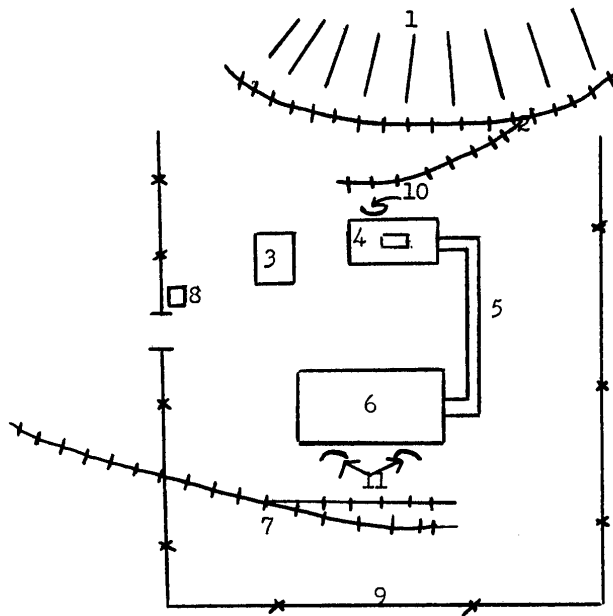
1. Khrompik Chemical Plant
2. Ore mining and refining plant near Magnitka

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Layout Sketch of Refining Plant near MagnitkaLegend

1. Open-cast ore mine.
2. Narrow-gauge railroad line.
3. Open-air obsolete ore crusher.
4. Foundation for the new crusher to be installed.
5. Concrete-lined conveyer belt and shaking chute.
6. Refining plant.
7. Broad-gauge railroad connection to Khrompik railroad station and to chemical plant.
8. Gatekeeper's lodge.
9. Fence.
10. Large concrete funnel into which ore can be dumped from rail cars.
11. Two funnels from which refined ore can be dumped into cars.

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